

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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E O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ITALY: BERLINGUER REAFFIRMS COMMUNIST GOALS

IN A SEPTEMBER 19 SPEECH TO 300,000 PERSONS ATTENDING THE
PCI'S NATIONAL UNITY FESTIVAL IN NAPLES, BERLINGUER
REJECTED THE THESIS THAT HIS PARTY IS BECOMING A SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC ONE. EMBASSY ROME REPORTS THAT BERLINGUER:

--RINGINGLY REAFFIRMED THE PCI'S IDENTITY AS A
COMMUNIST PARTY;

--DEFENDED THE PARTY'S ABSTENTION ON THE VOTE OF
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CONFIDENCE ON THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT; AND

--WARNED THAT THE PCI WILL BE AN INDEPENDENT AND VIGOROUS FORCE OF OPPOSITION WHEN NECESSARY.

IN DISCUSSING MAO'S DEATH, BERLINGUER STRESSED THE SHARP CONTRADICTIONS IN CHINESE DOMESTIC POLICY AND CRITICIZED THE PRC'S POLICY ON CHILE, ANGOLA AND DETENTE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS MAJOR ADDRESS WILL WELL SERVE ITS

PRIMARY PURPOSES--TO CALM THE FEARS OF THOSE UNCOMFORT-
ABLE WITH THE PCI'S NEW STATUS VIS-A-VIS THE GOVERNMENT,
AND TO CAUTION ANDREOTTI THAT PCI ABSTENTION WILL BE A
CRITICAL, CONDITIONAL AND TRANSITORY ONE. BERLINGUER'S
ROUGH TREATMENT OF THE PERSON AND LEGACY OF MAO PARALLELS
THE SOVIET POSITION AND WOULD SEEM TO GUARANTEE CONTINUED
NON-COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND ITALIAN COM-
MUNIST PARTIES. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 15357, 9/20 AND
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ROME 15366, 9/20.

2. SWEDEN: WHY VOTERS GAVE PALME THE BACK OF THEIR
HAND

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE THUS FAR EXPLAINED THEIR
ELECTORAL DEFEAT ALMOST ENTIRELY IN TERMS OF POPULAR
CONCERN OVER EXPANDED NUCLEAR PRODUCTION. EMBASSY
STOCKHOLM BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT OTHER, MORE TELLING
FACTORS WERE INVOLVED, INCLUDING:

--HIGH RATES OF TAXATION AND THE ARBITRARY WAYS OF
THE BUREAUCRACY;

--THE FEARED MEIDNER PLAN, WHICH WOULD HAVE PLACED
MUCH OF SWEDISH INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE UNDER TRADE
UNION CONTROL; AND

--PALME'S CAUSTIC CAMPAIGN STYLE AND OVEREMPHASIS ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

THE THREE NON-SOCIALIST PARTIES, WHO WILL PROBABLY HOLD
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A 180-169 MAJORITY IN THE RIKSDAG WHICH CONVENES OCTOBER
4, ARE NOT EXPECTED TO EMBARK ON ANY MAJOR INITIATIVES IN
DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN POLICY. THEIR ABILITY TO DELIVER ON
CAMPAIGN PROMISES WILL BE HAMPERED BY:

--A LACK OF A VIABLE COMMON PROGRAM; AND

--STRONG OPPOSITION BY THE SPD, COMMUNISTS AND TRADE

UNIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) STOCKHOLM 5184, 9/21.

3. TURKISH TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM CYPRUS

REFERRING TO THE SEPTEMBER 17TH ANNOUNCEMENT OF TURKISH TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM CYPRUS, MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GUVENDIREN TOLD EMBASSY ANKARA THAT THE MOVE:

--AFFECTED CERTAIN UNITS WHICH WERE NO LONGER NEEDED AND WHICH WILL NOT BE REPLACED; AND

--RESULTED IN A NET REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF TURKISH FORCES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT SEEMS LIKELY THE TIMING OF THE WITHDRAWAL IS MORE CLOSELY RELATED TO THE OPENING OF THE 31ST UNGA THAN TO MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS. SINCE THE WITHDRAWAL WENT UNDETECTED UNTIL THE ANNOUNCEMENT, WE DOUBT THE SIZE OF THE REDUCTION APPROACHES THE 5,000 TROOPS WHICH AP HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED. (CONFIDENTIAL) ANKARA 7234, 9/21 AND (UNCLASSIFIED) ANKARA 7173, 9/18.

4. ETHIOPIA: ERITREA UNRESOLVED

EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA REPORTS THE REGIME'S SUMMER-LONG EFFORT TO REACH A SETTLEMENT WITH ERITREAN INSURGENTS HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CURRENT IMPASSE ARE:

--GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF TOWNS AND CITIES AND INSURGENT CONTROL IN RURAL AREAS;

--A LACK OF SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIVITY SINCE THE
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PEASANT MARCH WAS CALLED OFF LAST JUNE; AND

--AN ECONOMY BADLY DAMAGED BY THE INSURGENCY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF GRANTING ERITREA AUTONOMY ON OTHER DISSIDENTS HAS PREVENTED THE REGIME FROM BEING MORE FORTHCOMING IN ITS DELIBERATIONS WITH THE INSURGENTS. WE SEE NO EARLY SOLUTION. (SECRET) ADDIS ABABA 10408, 9/21. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MORNING SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE234549
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: CASEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760357-0848
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760931/aaaabauz.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, XX
To: NSA DOD TRSY MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006